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Economic and Social Council

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The family and sustainable development

The Economic and Social Council,

Mindful of the pivotal role of the family in society, and recognizing that the stability and cohesiveness of communities and societies are linked to the strength of the family,

Realizing that the family is a major agent of sustainable development at all levels of society and that its contribution is crucial to the success of that process,

Recalling that, in accordance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[1] the widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family, which is the natural and fundamental group unit of society,

Mindful that, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State,

Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,[3] which provides that the family, as a basic unit of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members, particularly children and youth, should be assisted and protected so that it may fully assume its responsibility within the community,

Recalling also the Economic and Social Council and General Assembly resolutions on the family,

Recalling further the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond",[4] and noting

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.
[1] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[2] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[3] See General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).
[4] A/66/62-E/2011/4.

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that, at the international level, the family is promoted but not prioritized in development efforts,

Reaffirming that the family can contribute to eradicating poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases,

Recognizing that the family, as the natural and fundamental group unit of society, has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Stressing the importance of creating a conducive environment to strengthen and support all families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of the reconciliation of work and family life, and recognizing the principle of shared parental responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child,

1. *Recognizes* the need for continuing to meet the diverse needs of families, both as beneficiaries and participants of the development process;

2. *Stresses* the fact that Member States, the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders should give due consideration to the role of the family in the development process;

3. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to take into account the role of the family as a contributor to sustainable development and the need to strengthen family policy development in their ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, the Millennium Development Goals and future United Nations development goals;

4. *Invites* Member States to pay attention to the role of the family in sustainable development during the plenary meeting devoted to the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, to be held at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include, in his report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of Assembly resolution 68/136 of 18 December 2013, proposals on concrete measures that need to be taken by Member States, United Nations system organizations and other relevant stakeholders in order to strengthen the capacity and potential of the family as a contributor to sustainable development;

6. *Decides* to remain seized of this issue.